Five College Consortium Draft Strategic Plan

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Executive Director of Five Colleges, Incorporated
November 4, 2010
Five Colleges, Incorporated
since 1966
five members:

Amherst College
Hampshire College
Mount Holyoke College
Smith College
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Overview

• Employees: ~9,300
• Faculty members: ~2000 FT; 500 PT
• Students: ~35,000
• Integrated library catalog
• Shared library depository and last book policy (with associate members)
  ~500,000 volumes
• Subsidized PVTA Transit for students and employees: $1.5 million
• 3 Centers; 13 Certificates (minors);
  2 academic departments; 1 major
• Shared services: public safety, student health, special cataloguing, integrated catalog management
• Shared employees: recycling, risk management, energy management
• Management Provided: Library resources, Fiber network

Joint Endeavors involve 2, 3, 4 and 5 member campuses.
• Administrative Communities of Practice: directors, deans, business officers, librarians, HR directors (total >50)
• Academic Communities of Practice: departmental, interdisciplinary (total >50)
• Faculty Seminars; Joint Lecture Series
Five Colleges, Incorporated
36 employees; 30 joint faculty members; 5800 student cross registrations annually (+13%/2 yr); 100 faculty course exchanges annually

Consortium budget: ~$5 million billed + $2 million in grants

BUT

$50 million value in shared activities
Student Cross Registration as it affects U Mass Amherst
2009-2010 data

Outflow - 1090  Inflow - 1451
(up 47% in 2 years) (up 16% in 2 years)

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FCI Strategic Planning
April 2009 – November 2010

Developed after community-wide conversations, a draft Strategic Plan is posted on our web site for community comment:

www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/planning.

Planned for adoption in December 2010. Meanwhile over 30 initiatives are already underway.
Developing a vision for the future

For planning purposes we proposed to envision the consortium as best as it might become by 2020.
Foundational Commitments

Excellence in teaching, research, scholarly and creative work

Valuing diversity as the context for learning

Credit for whichever students we teach

Credit for where ever we teach

Subsidized transportation

No added cost for cross-registration

Periodic program review
Key Ideals of the Draft Plan

**Seamlessness:** maximal opportunity and minimal barriers to collaboration, where pursued.

**Thoughtful convergence:** synergistic program development, resource sharing and cost-containment, where appropriate.

**Scope:** a consortium of local impact, regional influence, national importance and global reach
Principal Categories for Strategic Initiatives in this plan

• Enhance Academic Excellence
• Strengthen Five College Effectiveness, Community and Identity
• Align Administrative Investments, Share Services
• Make Optimal Use of Information Technologies
• Extend Local and Regional Engagement and Partnerships
Academic Excellence

- Foster intellectual communities
- Intercalate undergraduate and graduate programs
- Expand opportunities for faculty exchange
- Explore consortial approaches to academic support
- Continue work to share library resources
- Coordinate development of shared and complementary courses and programs
- Coordinate planning for parallel programs
Effectiveness, Community, Identity

- Maintain reasonably aligned academic calendars
- Reduce inter-campus travel times
- Publicize Five College Certificate options
- Improve communication of opportunities available through Five College cooperation
- Develop more multi-campus student programs to link students with common academic or co-curricular interests
- Link information on campus web sites
Align Administrative Investments, Share Services

• Explore multi-campus approaches whenever a major investment is contemplated at one campus
• Streamline administrative and business functions through collaboration, enhance services
• Take advantage of joint procurement for better discounts
• Share expertise and best practices
Use of Information Technologies

- Coordinate selection of optimal video conferencing and instructional technologies
- Improve electronic resources for course registration and advising, including integrated and cross-referenced course catalog
- Negotiate shared licensing of electronic resources to serve all institutions
- Explore opportunities for improved coordination and service in all IT areas
Extend Local/Regional Engagement

- Expand coordinated community service – local and regional, on the model of the Holyoke Compact and Holyoke Bound (FC + HCC)
- Contribute to improving local & regional schools through “Partnership Programs” (TAH, STEM, ...)
- Emphasize regional procurement (local investment, lower carbon footprint)
- Contribute to regional economic development
Details Will Be Found In The Specific Initiatives (45 now underway)

As with all current Consortium programs, participation in new program or project by any member campus depends on approval by the appropriate campus governance groups or official(s).
Questions, Comments and Suggestions Are WELCOME